Family Home Page

Contact Information

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 4th 1864.tif" Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:} Mrs. Susan M. Keeler East Saginaw Michigan

{*Page 1:*}

Headquarters 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry 2nd Brigade 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps Mossy Creek, Tennessee, *{Friday}* March 4th 1864

Dear Wife,

Since I last wrote I received yours of the 15^{th} inst and have not been able to answer it sooner on account of being on the march. We are now only about 30 miles above Knoxville $\{77N\}$. Night before last we had another nights march in the mud from near Morristown $\{77N\}$. It rained two nights and two days before and the roads were muddy. We are only ordered to camp temporarily here and our 15 days march will not be far. I think as we are only 14 miles from Strawberry Plains $\{77N\}$. I will write as often as I can and I will send you some

{*Page 2:*}

money as soon as I can after we are paid. When that will be I cannot tell. I have four months pay due me to the 29th of February. I think we will be paid in less than two months. I cannot send any before pay day for I have only three dollars left now. If we are paid four months pay I shall get over four hundred dollars and I will send you three hundred of it. I am sorry that you are in need of money and I hope you can get credit to some of the stores for a little while or until I can send you some money. You spoke of coming down here to see me with Corporal *{Thomas}* Devine. Well, dear wife, you must not attempt any such thing, for as bad as I would like to see you I cannot consent to your coming down here for I am so situated that I could not

{*Page 3:*}

see you one day by myself and I could not take you into the field nor would a woman be allowed in camp if I could; and I would not be allowed to stop at a house and rather than have you come I would rather be dismissed *{from*} the service. You must be patient a while longer and I will try, as soon as I can see a chance, to get a leave of absence approved to come home. So you must wait and when I am in the service two years I will be exempt from draft. If I cannot come home by that time I will tender my resignation. I will send you my photograph as I can get it taken. I am no larger than I was before I left home and I look just the same as I did then. I am well as I ever was and I hope this will

{Page 4:}

find you the same. Do not fear for me for I am safe. Keep up your spirits and be a good girl, dear Susan, and you will not be forgotten. I think of you every day and every hour in the day and I hope the day is not far distant that I can come home to stay. Take good care of Frankie and remember me to all while I remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,

D. D. Keeler

16 Irs 23° Much Volongly 20m Bug gow Die 230 Al mossy Creek Sem march 4th 1864 Gear Wile Since I last oursting received yours of The 15th inst and have not been able to answer it sooner on account of being on the march Heare now only about 30 miles above TEnoprille Might before last we had an other nights march in the mud from near morristown At ramed two mights and leve da before and the loads were made me are only ordered to camp tomker rarily here, and our 15 days march will not be fare think tas we are only 14 miles from Strawberg Plains ababill conte do after as l'e an and Puill send you some

money as soon as can after we are paid when that boild be & can not tell Chave four months key due me to the 29th of Step. Othink are will be pauge m les than two months D can not send any before pay day for Phave only three Dollars all now Plue are faud four months pay I shall get ovver four Hundred Deflars and Pour send you Three Houndred of it Pam sorry that you are m hed of money and Phope you can get credit to some of the stores for a little while or mitil bean Lend you Some money. you spectoe of clomeng down here to see me With Coloral Divine Well Dear This you must not attempt any such thing for as bad as Pooned lite to see you P can not consent to your combing down here for & an so setudied that I could not

see you one day by my self and I could not take you in to the field nor would a woman be alow ed in camp if Pcould and would not be alowed to stop at a house and pather than have non come Drould rather be dissuched the service bou must be katient a while longer and I will try as soon as & can see a chance to get a leave of absence apperoved to come thome Do now must wait and when I am in the service two years Phill be exempt from drall, if Dean not come home by that time hurle tender my resegnation Paul Send nou they Photograph as I can get it taken Dam no larger than I was beford left home and Ploot just the Same as I did them I am swell as I ever was and I hope this will

find you the same do not lear for me for Pam safe Keep up your spirits and be a good girly. Bear Susan and you will not be forgoten OP think of you every day and every hour in the day and hope the day to get. for destant that I can come home remander the to all while I amain asever your Spectronate Husband go Keeler The second s

